



Dear Friends

Christmas 2017

Joyous Christmas from Georgette and the Congo orphans/street kids! They, and we, thank you for your continued prayers and support for their food and school fees. You have provided Georgette with the steady on-going support she needs for the continued growth and education of the children and youth.

### Good News!



*Several of the classrooms, built by a German organization and local businessman, finished by funds from CBN and OFA*

- Along with the orphans, some 200 neighborhood children attend the school, and Georgette has significantly upgraded the campus, to make it a desirable place for parents to send their children.
- Due to the political unrest, many other schools have closed but Chevronné has stayed open and earned a strong reputation in Kinshasa. Julie, one of the orphan students, scored the highest grades in the Mont Ngafula District of Kinshasa.
- With each year the school offers a higher grade. This year a grade 11 class was taught for the first time. We have just received funding for chemistry equipment for grades 11 and 12.
- Christian Broadcasting Network has restored the well and solar paneling (you can see the panels on the roof of the school) to provide year-round water at the campus, as well as spruced up the school so that parents with the ability to pay the tuition will actually send their children there.
- In order to comply with city laws requiring erosion mitigation, we, together with Our Friends in Africa, provided funds for a water tank to collect water from the roof of the new school building, build toilets (you can see them on the right side of the picture), and construct the retaining wall and fence you see in the foreground.
- Your support also provided Georgette with the medication to recover from a serious goiter illness.



*Another view of the school - Ensuring erosion control also beautifies the 'campus'*



*The orphanage building, which also serves as the kindergarten classroom. Football is a ubiquitous low-cost exercise and play*

### **Difficulties:**

○ Political and military unrest over postponed elections has significantly increased insecurity and unemployment. As a result, food prices remain high, which places a lot of pressure on Georgette to choose between adequate food, health costs, University and trade school tuition, and the many other costs required to provide the children a chance to succeed;

○ Because almost everything is imported, and the infrastructure is too weak to transport goods and produce in-country, Kinshasa is a high-cost country – for everything but wages. The required amount for a healthy diet in Kinshasa is US\$50 per child – which comes to US\$2,500 per month for Georgette's children. We had been giving half of that (US\$1250 monthly) when that provided adequate food. We have increased our monthly food budget to US\$1750, and would like to increase to the US \$2,500 as funding permits.

**We invite you to a monthly commitment** or an annual donation. We issue income tax receipts for all donations.

- Cheques: payable to **Accountable Development Works**, 181 Canora St., Winnipeg, MB, R3G 1T1. (<http://accountabledevelopment.org/projects/fides-the-democratic-republic-of-congo/>)
- Easy automatic deposit arrangements – contact Nel Derksen at [nel.derksen@gmail.com](mailto:nel.derksen@gmail.com)
- Or donate online on Canada Helps / Accountable Development Works / Congo's Children [https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/accountable-development-works/#donate\\_now](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/accountable-development-works/#donate_now)

For more information, please see our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Congo.Children/>

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Juls Rempel, Brian Wiebe, David Pankratz, Nel Derksen, John Derksen  
Kim and Zakk Fast, Hayley Summers, Dan and Rachel Bergman